



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE MEDIA RELATIONS DIVISION

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Malibu man arraigned in shooting of neighbor

VAN NUYS – A 27-year-old Malibu man accused of shooting and wounding his neighbor during a dispute was arraigned today on attempted murder and assault charges, the District Attorney's office announced.

Patrick Kearns Leach, 27 (dob 8-11-1985), was charged in case No. LA 073224. Leach, who is free on \$1 million bail, was to appear in Van Nuys Superior Court later this week for arraignment. Instead, he appeared today.

Deputy District Attorney Elan S. Carr said Commissioner Mitchell Block sent the case to Van Nuys Department 120 and set March 18 for preliminary hearing setting.

Although the case filed late yesterday asked that bail be increased to \$1.5 million, Carr said the commissioner decided the bail of \$1 million would stand.

Leach is charged with shooting his neighbor last month. It was alleged in the complaint that the defendant used a handgun to commit the crime and that the victim suffered great bodily injury.

The complaint specifically charges one count of attempted murder and one count of assault with a semiautomatic firearm. If convicted as charged, the defendant faces a maximum sentence of life in prison with the possibility of parole.

Leach was arrested by Sheriff's deputies after the shooting, which occurred the morning of Jan. 9 in a common driveway both the defendant and victim share on West Winding Way in the hills above Malibu.

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